

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13 and 17 have been amended.

Claims 1 - 18 are present in the subject application.

In the Office Action dated December 15, 2006, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,816,853 (Agarwal et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0087510 (Weinberg et al.). Briefly, the present invention is directed toward a database management system installed in a data processing system. The database management system manages a database having partitions for storing table data based on a partitioning schema, in which each partition has an associated partition identifier, and in which the database has database catalog information associated therewith. A partition identifier is identified in accordance with the partitioning schema, and the partition identifier is selected based on the contents of the query and the database catalog information. The query is executed against the identified partition. The technique improves the execution of queries while minimizing the consumption of network resources.

The Examiner takes the position that the Agarwal et al. patent discloses the claimed subject matter, except for database catalog information and executing the query against the identified partition. The Examiner further alleges that the Weinberg et al. publication discloses these features and that it would have been obvious to combine the Agarwal et al. patent and Weinberg et al. publication to attain the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, independent claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended and recite the features of: retrieving information within the database catalog information associated with the database table containing the desired data and relating to the partitioning schema; analyzing the contents of the query and the retrieved database catalog information to determine the specific partition containing the database table portion with the desired data and identifying a partition identifier associated with the specific partition; and executing the query against the specific partition. Dependent claims 5, 11 and 17 have been amended for consistency with their amended parent claims.

The Agarwal et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest these features. Rather, the Agarwal et al. patent is directed toward a method and mechanism to execute a query against a partitioned database object, where each partition containing information for the object is processed (e.g., See Abstract; Column 1, lines 41 - 46; and Column 3, line 45 to Column 4, line 11). Data processed or created for an earlier partition is maintained even after further processing is performed against a subsequent partition. A shared data object, such as a context object, is maintained to store data from processing the partitions of a partition table. Rather than discarding or overriding the shared data object after processing each partition, the data from a subsequent partition is instead appended to the shared data object (e.g., See Abstract). This enables data for every partition to exist in a shared data object (e.g., See Column 3, Lines 16 - 24).

Thus, the Agarwal et al. patent is directed toward processing each partition containing data of a partitioned database object for a query and saving the processing results of prior

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partitions for use with processing of subsequent partitions. Although the Agarwal et al. patent discloses that partitions not containing information relative to the query may be pruned from the search (e.g., See Column 4, Lines 50 - 54), there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of the manner in which the pruning is accomplished. Further, the manner of processing is still the same as described above, where partitions for a partitioned database object are successively processed (except those determined to be irrelevant). Accordingly, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of determining the specific partition containing the desired data for a query based on the query contents and database organization or catalog information relating to the database table containing the desired data and executing the query against that specific partition as recited in the independent claims.

The Weinberg et al. publication does not compensate for the deficiencies of the Agarwal et al. patent and similarly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features discussed above. Rather, the Weinberg et al. publication is directed toward a method and apparatus for structuring, maintaining and using families of data, where a set of families is constructed from one or more sets of partitioning data based on values of fields and attributes of the records in a database system. Further, the Examiner relies on the Weinberg et al. publication for cataloging of data in the database and cites various paragraphs for this assertion. However, the catalog referred to by the Examiner (i.e., citing Paragraphs 0006, 0037 - 0038 and 0131) is an electronic form of a product catalog used to convey information about merchant products (e.g., See Paragraphs 0005, 0035 and 00131), as opposed to information pertaining to database organization as recited in the independent claims.

Amendment

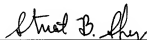
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Since the Agarwal et al. patent and Weinberg et al. publication do not disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the features recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 13 as discussed above, these claims are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 - 6, 8 - 12 and 14 - 18 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 7 and 13, respectively, and therefore, include all the limitations of their parent claims. These claims are considered to be in condition for allowance for substantially the same reasons discussed above in relation to their parent claims and for further limitations recited in the dependent claims.

The application, having been shown to overcome the issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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